by the Government have now been issued in their final form. Under these Rules, a body of ryots wishing to open a road for their benefit should constitute themselves into an association for that purpose and apply to the department for permission to open the road, and in the event of the department being satisfied with the alignment of the road and the necessity for opening it and of the association being prepared to meet the cost of acquisition of lands, if any, the department will take over the road for maintenance, after constructing the necessary masonry works and giving the required finishing touches. In exceptional cases involving heavy outlay on account of earth-cutting, rock-blasting, etc., a contribution towards the formation work itself may be sanctioned by the Government. It is hoped that these advantageous provisions will be availed of by the villagers residing in the interior parts of the State. In the meantime, 56 miles of roads opened by the ryots in Central and North Travancore before the issue of these Rules have been taken over, for departmental maintenance, in addition to 37 miles of such roads already taken over and it has been declared that the policy of the Government is to entrust the maintenance of village roads as far as possible to local inhabitants. In view of the great scope that exists in this country for the rearing of avenue trees and making them an important source of revenue, besides promoting the convenience of travellers, the Chief Engineer has been requested to draw up a scheme of systematic avenue planting and development, and his scheme is awaited. Satisfactory progress has been made in regard to the important work of the Shertallai Canal and the lands required for the entire length of that canal have been acquired at the comparatively small cost of Rs. 1,14,000. The draft Rules framed under the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation have already been published in the Gazette for public criticism and the Chief Engineer has been requested to submit his final proposals after considering the criticisms received.

36. Railway.—The necessary sanction for the preliminary survey of the extension of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway to Nagercoil having been obtained from the Government of India, Mr. G. Marini, a railway engineer of several years' local experience, has been entrusted with that work, and it is expected that the survey will be completed before the end of the current year. The question of conducting a reconnaissance survey of the proposed Quilon-Ernakulam railway will be taken up after the completion of the survey of the Nagercoil line. The economic survey of the forest wealth of the Neriyamangalam valley on the High Ranges, conducted by the Forest Utilisation Officer, has disclosed the fact that the railway line from the High Ranges to the coast along the course of that valley would not be a paying concern, and the proposal connected with that railway has therefore been dropped for the present.

37. Anchal.—The number of private covers posted in the Anchal offices rose from 112,77,564 in 1096 to 125,70,193 in 1097. A system of "village delivery" has been introduced with effect from the beginning of the current year, under which people living in out-of-the-way localities can enjoy the benefits of Anchal registration, without being obliged to resort to the nearest Anchal offices for the purpose. Insurance of registered parcels has also been introduced in six selected Anchal offices; but this arrangement has not yet become sufficiently popular.

38. Medical Relief and Public Health.—The bacteriological and pathological section of the Medical Department, which started work in 1097, has been proving itself useful, and the help rendered by this section in the shape of the diagnosis of certain diseases and the treatment of some of them by means of vaccines specially prepared is being availed of by both departmental and private medical practitioners. The special investigation officer is pursuing his investigations into malaria and elephantiasis. He also proposes to study the conditions of certain other diseases which are widely prevalent in the country, *e. g.*, anæmia, dysentery and yaws. The first batch of 13 pupil nurses undergoing training in the special class organised for them in 1096 have passed their final examination, and when these are appointed in the important hospitals of the State, a more effective system of sick-nursing can be introduced in those institutions, and some steady work can also be undertaken for the welfare of infants, prospective mothers and lying-in women among the poorer and the less educated

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classes. The pupil midwives trained in the Victoria Jubilee School, Quilon, are also being given a special course of training in maternity and child welfare. To afford better facilities for the treatment of labour cases, special labour and lying-in wards have been sanctioned for the District Hospitals of Nagercoil and Kottayam and the idea of the Government is to extend the provision of these special wards to the other chief mofussil hospitals as well. Provision is also being made for the allotment of separate rooms for use as pay-wards in the chief mofussil hospitals. A class for the training of compounders was opened in the General Hospital on the 1st Karkatakam, 1097, and 40 pupils, of whom 5 are drawn from the depressed classes, are undergoing training there. Another noteworthy feature of the work of the department is the endeavour that is being made to introduce into the hospital pharmacopœa certain select indigenous drugs of proved value to replace the more costly imported drugs. The State Medical Code, published 25 years ago, has become far too out of date to suit present-day conditions of hospital administration, and this Code is therefore undergoing careful revision at the hands of the Darbar Physician. In the out-patient section of the Trivandrum General Hospital, arrangements have been made for the collection of valuable clinical data for high-class scientific work, and the Darbar Physician proposes to extend this system in course of time to some of the larger district hospitals in the mofussil. As promised by me last year, ten teachers employed in vernacular schools were given a course of lectures in hygiene and first-aid, and they have been posted as teachers in the ten Vernacular Training Schools of the State; and it is hoped that a working knowledge of the basic principles of hygiene will be disseminated by them among the pupil-teachers studying in those institutions. Lastly, a revised set of Rules will be shortly issued with the object of spreading the use of quinine in malarial tracts by bringing it to the door of the consumer These Rules provide for the grant of a liberal commission to the salesmen with a view to induce them to push the sales vigorously. Orders have been issued for the reclassification, according to their importance, of the grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas of the State, which are now found to be 72 in number after the elimination of those that are vacant. This number will be worked up to 120 in course of time, giving one Vaidyasala for every 4 *pakuthies* on an average, besides 12 additional ones for towns. The grants to these institutions have also been enhanced, the minimum grant being raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

39. Education.—It will be within your recollection that in the year 1093 Government appointed a mixed committee to examine the question of a separate University for Travancore and that that committee submitted an *ad interim* report proposing the establishment of a residential and teaching University of the unitary type. No further action was taken on the committee's report in view of the changes that were in contemplation in the constitution and administration of the Madras University as a result of the recommendations of the Sadler Commission. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai of our Legislative Council moved a resolution at the last meeting of the Council for the establishment of a separate University for Travancore, and on the assurance given by the Government that they would appoint a committee for re-examining the question, he withdrew that resolution. Now that the Madras University Bill which was recently passed by the Madras Legislative Council has become law, the consideration of the question of a separate University for this part of the country has become a matter of special urgency. Orders will shortly issue in regard to the appointment of the proposed committee and it is trusted that the deliberations and recommendations of the committee on this momentous question would help the Government to solve it in a manner conducive to the best advantage of the people.

40. The question of the admission of a larger number of students to His Highness the Maha Raja's College has been engaging the earnest attention of the Government and a composite committee has now been appointed to ascertain and report how far this is feasible. Group II of the Intermediate course was opened in that College at the beginning of the current academical year.

41. The grant-in-aid institutions of the State have been allowed certain further concessions under the second set of orders passed on the Education Expenditure

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